demic circles and attracted the attention of the local press, not so much for the content of the conferences as because this represented an attempt to exchange ideas, a search for mutual understanding.

IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

In connection with the trip to Japan, we also visited India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, Thailand, and Hong Kong. This was a lecture and study tour, fascinating in its abundance of new, often conflicting impressions. We wandered through the oriental fairy-tale lands of Thailand and Burma and in the gardens of mysterious dreams and legends of Ceylon, observed with puzzlement the seemingly impossible yet prosperous Hong Kong. It was India, however, that made the strongest impression on us—a great nation at the turning point in her history, struggling desperately against her own grim past and toward a brighter future. We saw India walking a tightrope between the Western democracy she was trying to imitate and her traditional suspicion and resentment toward the West; between yearning for economic progress and veneration of old customs incompatible with such progress. India's neutralism stems partly from her split personality, partly from the tortuous ways of Asian policy.

We were surprised to discover how deeply the United States was involved in the internal clash of ideas in India. To the local intellectuals, it seemed to be our country that epitomized all the negative features characteristic of capitalism and Western civilization. Even when they were assailing colonialism and imperialism, they seldom thought of the British; the British, whom they had learned to know in their happy college years in England, were nice fellows after all, and had proved so by leaving India graciously. So the tag of imperialism and colonialism has been pinned on Americans without regard for historical evidence —merely because the United States is a powerful and prosperous Western nation.

We lectured at a dozen universities and held several public conferences under the auspices of the Congress for Cultural Freedom, finding everywhere considerable interest in the United States mixed with suspicion. Political debates are a favorite pastime in India, and the question periods after a lecture easily developed into disputes with sharp verbal exchanges but no real animosity. We liked these debates, answered all questions that indicated a sincere desire for additional information, and usually had a great majority of the listeners on our side.

In view of her great differences in geographic and climatic conditions, in her history and cultural and religious traditions, the new so-